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OMEMAKERS' CHAT

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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF INFORMATION

September 13, 1944

BJECT: MUNITIONS FOR '45 V-GARDENS. Information from garden specialists of the United States Department of Agriculture.

Here's an idea from the Victory Garden Chairman of the United States Department f Agriculture for those patriotic and thrifty members who are determined to plant d tend that precious garden spot even more wisely next year. He believes he learn- some of his best gardening lore by mulling over his experiences. He attends the hool of Experience and really studies his lessons. He recommends that you do some inking now, before you forget the details, about your part in the battle with the ge.

Who got the vegetables, you or the bugs? If the bugs had too large a share, w about a bit of detective work to find the reason? How about the insecticides t stocked up on when you were embarking on the garden business? Did you have just at you needed in sufficient quantity when the various bugs threatened the crop? were you overstocked on the materials to combat one kind of bug and forgot all out the others?

What insects gave you trouble this year? About when did you first see them in rden? What vegetables did they attack? Was the weather unusually dry or wet, cool hot, when they appeared in numbers? These are items of importance in your garden ary. They will help you recognize the situations in which you might expect bug oubles to be coming on, next year. For example, the item about weather. Hot, dry ather is hard on most vegetables; and bugs make it even harder for the plant to ow. Warm, moist weather is good growing weather for many vegetables, but it is also pt to increase fungus diseases and some kinds of insects. Cool, moist weather ings its peculiar afflictions to the garden. It is worth while to put your

bservations down day-by-day, but if you didn't keep a diary, perhaps you can recall nough of your experiences to jot down something on these points. They would give ou a base for checking to determine which loss, if any, you could probably have revented. And your dependable instruction book, or your garden leader, could tell ou how.

Of course, you're not one of those Victory gardeners who had a touch of the ut-it-off ailment. But there might have been a few, - a very few, - gardeners who ead the instruction book at the beginning of the season and then put off the pur- ase of dusts and sprays, or just didn't get around to putting them on. Says one f these put-it-off gardeners: "I knew I might expect bean beetles. I had bought e recommended dust to protect my vines and I had been told I should put it on be- re the beetles came. But my bean vines kept looking so green and thrifty - no igns of any trouble - so I just put off dusting, - had plenty of other chores. One ay I looked over at the bean vines and I'm telling you it didn't take an experienc- d eye to see the beetles had been there and had practically finished a good third f the leaves. Of course I got busy then with the duster. But I would have had uch less trouble with bean beetles and a much better crop of snap beans if I had me what I knew I ought to do -- start dusting when the beetles first came." And at, Victory gardeners, is a good motto for your garden notebook. Let's put it wn in big black letters -- "Start dusting when the first beetle comes."

A resolution to keep the dust and spray equipment in good condition would be nother good line for next year's garden notebook. This equipment is important to he protection of your garden. It is made of scarce materials. But, most important o you, it should work when you need it. The Victory Gardeners Handbook on insects nd diseases has a word of admonition that every club member could read again with rofit. It says: "Regardless of the care and skill shown in the selection of a arden site, in the cultivation and fertilization of the soil, and in the selection

nd planting of seeds or transplants, all such efforts involving the use of criti-
al and scarce supplies of seeds, fertilizers, and tools, may be partially or com-
letely nullified by insects and diseases unless steps are taken to control them."

This year's experiences in controlling insects and diseases can help us plan
r program for protecting our garden crops next year.

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